

# HOUSE . . . . . No. 2809

By Mr. Atsalis of Barnstable, petition of Demetrius J. Atsalis and Stephen M. Brewer relative to establishing a hotline for the use of foster children reporting cases of abuse or mistreatment. Children and Families.

## The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year Two Thousand and Five.

AN ACT ESTABLISHING A HOTLINE FOR FOSTER CHILDREN.

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:*

- 1 Chapter 12 of the General Laws is hereby amended by inserting
- 2 after section 11I the following section:—
- 3 Section 11M. The department of the attorney general, in coop-
- 4 eration with the department of state police, shall establish and
- 5 maintain a hotline, so-called, to receive calls from children being
- 6 provided foster care by the department of social services in any
- 7 type of setting. The state police shall forthwith investigate any
- 8 charges of abuse or mistreatment. All information received shall
- 9 be considered confidential but may be shared with appropriate
- 10 public officers and agencies.